



Florida House of Representatives
Representative Joe Gibbons
District 105

Reply to:

☒ 3150 SW 52nd Avenue, Suite 203
Pembroke Park, Florida 33023
(954) 893-5006 Fax (954) 893-5008

☐ 402 South Monroe Street
1402 The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300
(850) 488-0145

Councils:
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Full Appropriations Council on General Gov. & Health Care

Committees:
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Appropriations Committee: **Ranking Member**
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As the FCC considers implementing net neutrality rules under the open Internet Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, it is imperative that the Commission consider the impact that such regulations could have for Americans. As a State Legislator representing Florida House District 105, I am concerned about the effects that net neutrality could have on network functionality, maintenance and expansion which would ultimately affect how Floridians use the Internet.

In recent years, Florida's policy makers have been enthusiastic about expanding the availability of technology in our state, especially making technology available in our schools. Both at work and in school, Floridians are using broadband technology to help enhance their quality of life.

At the Commission's September meeting, it was reported that four out of five parents say the Internet helps their children with schoolwork.

Net neutrality regulations could have a detrimental impact on private sector investment in deploying and maintaining broadband infrastructure. Currently, despite our weakened economy, providers are investing tens of billions of dollars and are creating new, American jobs. Our economy cannot afford to lose this level of investment, nor can those who lack broadband connections afford to wait any longer for access. In order to ensure that everyone benefits from broadband technology, there must be incentives in place that spur continued investment. Net neutrality regulations will only detract from this goal and widen the digital divide.

At this time, the FCC must work to promote policies that spur greater broadband deployment and must give broadband providers the authority to manage their networks to ensure that all users have a safe and high-quality experience. Additionally, providers must be able to protect users from spam and viruses that degrade network performance, as well as shield children from non-age appropriate content if their customers request it.



I thank the FCC for the chance to comment on such an important issue. All citizens in our great country and those in Florida should have access to the opportunities that a broadband connection can create.

Sincerely,

Joseph Gibbons

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District 105

Cc: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker